

## Interim Summary of Mass E-Mails About Bristol Bay Received by the EPA Region 10

Covering the Period of January 15, 2014 (Final Assessment Release) to February 27, 2014 and February 28, 2014 (Announcement on initiation of 404c process) to April 30, 2014

During the period of January 15 to the present, the project mailbox [R10BristolBay@epa.gov](mailto:R10BristolBay@epa.gov) has received approximately 4600 e-mails. Of these unsolicited e-mails, the majority support the EPA assessment or EPA action to protect Bristol Bay. A numeric summary by subject line is included in the table below. The text of these messages follows. Personally identifiable information is excluded from these messages.

E-Mail Subject Line (Slight Modifications Included)	1/15 to 2/27/14	2/28 to 4/30/14
Pebble: A Risk We Can't Afford to Take	3326	132
Thank You For the Bristol Bay Watershed Assessment	653	11
Utilize the Clean	139	0
Clean Water Act Protections for Bristol Bay – A Great Step	0	296

In addition, the project mailbox received 42 unique messages expressing support for the Assessment or EPA Action and 3 that opposed it.

### Text of Mass E-Mails:

#### **Pebble: A Risk We Can't Afford to Take**

I am writing today to thank you for your vigilance in the effort to protect Bristol Bay, Alaska from the Pebble Mine. I appreciate the review the EPA has undertaken with the Final Bristol Bay Watershed Assessment.

This assessment justifies your use of EPA's authority under the Clean Water Act 404(c) to stop this ill-conceived project and lifts the severe threat to the 14,000 jobs and multiple industries that depend upon Bristol Bay's clean, healthy waters. I commend the EPA for beginning a Clean Water Act 404(c) process in Bristol Bay, which will help place commonsense restrictions that prevent inappropriate development. The EPA's final assessment of Bristol Bay's productive watershed has already found that even without a disaster, dredging the Pebble deposit will destroy up to 90 miles of salmon streams and up to 5,000 acres of wetland salmon habitat.

At first glance, Pebble mine might appear to be about jobs vs. the environment. The reality is that Pebble mine would create about 1,000 temporary mining jobs while endangering 14,000 commercial and recreational fishery-related jobs in a \$1.5 billion annual salmon fishery that can last indefinitely. We all know that's an unacceptable trade-off.

Pebble is the wrong mine in the wrong place and sacrificing one industry for another is unacceptable. The EPA's work to stop Pebble mine and protect the Bristol Bay fishery is good for business. I commend your efforts and look forward to participating in the public process as EPA moves forward with your effort to protect one of the nation's greatest sustainable resources - the Bristol Bay, Alaska salmon fishery.

#### **Thank You for the Bristol Bay Watershed Assessment (663 Copies)**

As a person of faith, I am writing to thank you for the Bristol Bay Watershed Assessment that was recently finalized. As noted in the Assessment, Bristol Bay is more than just a beautiful piece of God's Creation. The health of the Bay is critical to the social and spiritual health the Alaskan Natives who have called this place home for thousands of years as you noted in your report.

Your report also reaffirms what the Alaskan Natives and Orthodox Christians in Alaska have been saying for some time – a mine like Pebble Mine would be detrimental to the whole of this created place and we must do all that we can to protect it.

I urge you to use all means available to you to protect Bristol Bay, AK from large scale development that would threaten the health of the salmon and the communities that call this place home. Bristol Bay is a beautiful reminder that the whole of God's creation – both human and nonhuman – are interconnected. Let's ensure that future generations know this place the way we do today.

Thank you again for your important work.

### **Clean Water Act Protections for Bristol Bay – A Great Step**

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### **Utilize the Clean Water Act**

I request that the Environmental Protection Agency use the Clean Water Act to stop Pebble mine and protect the salmon resources, economy and way of life of the Bristol Bay region.

The final Bristol Bay Watershed Assessment, released January 15, 2014, makes it clear that Pebble mine would:

- Cause the direct loss of up to 94 miles of salmon-supporting streams;
- Destroy up to 5,350 acres of wetlands, ponds, and lakes in the Bristol Bay region;
- Alter streamflows of up to 33 miles of salmon-supporting streams, likely affecting ecosystem structure and function;
- Create a transportation corridor to Cook Inlet crossing wetlands and approximately 64 streams and rivers in the Kvichak River watershed, 55 of which are known or likely to support salmon, the culvert failures, runoff, and spills of chemicals would put salmon spawning areas at risk; and
- Require the collection, storage, treatment and management of extensive quantities of mine waste, leachates, and wastewater during mining and "long after mining concludes.

I strongly support EPA utilizing its authority under section 404(c) of the Clean Water Act to protect Bristol Bay and stop the Pebble mine once and for all.